

Sub B1 A plurality of user-accessible storage locations on the at least one storage device in response to a communication from the host computer that does not include the generated data to be written to the first user-accessible storage location.

C-1 *Original* 2. (Thrice Amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first user-accessible storage location includes a plurality of first user-accessible storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the controller is capable of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system and writing the generated data to the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations in response to a single command.

3. (Thrice Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the controller is capable of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system having a predetermined state and writing the generated data having the predetermined state to each of the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations in response to the single command.

4. (Twice Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be non-contiguous storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to any of the at least two storage locations in response to a single command.

5. (Twice Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be storage locations on different storage devices of the at least one storage device, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to a single command.

6. (Thrice Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of storage devices, wherein at least two storage locations of the

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plurality of first user-accessible storage locations are on different storage devices, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to a single command.

Sub D1 8. (Twice Amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first user-accessible storage location corresponds to a logical object defined by the computer system, the logical object being formed by a first group of the plurality of user-accessible storage locations on the at least one storage device that includes the first user-accessible storage location, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to only the first group in response to the single command.

Sub D2 11. (Amended) A storage system for use in a computer system including a host computer, the storage system comprising:

at least one storage device having a plurality of user-accessible storage locations; a cache memory; and a controller, coupled to the cache memory and the at least one storage device, that controls access to the at least one storage device from the host computer, the controller being capable of generating data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system and writing the generated data to a first storage location of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device in response to a communication from the host computer that does not include the generated data to be written to the first storage location; wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of disk drives.

12. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a storage system in a computer system including the storage system and a host computer coupled thereto, wherein the storage system is a disk drive storage system that includes a cache memory and at least one storage device having a plurality of user-accessible storage locations, the at least one storage device including at least one disk drive, the method comprising, in response to a communication received from the host computer, acts of:

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(A) generating, within the storage system, data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system to be written to a first user-accessible storage location of the plurality of user-accessible storage locations on the at least one storage device; and

(B) writing the generated data to the first user-accessible storage location.

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13. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the first user-accessible storage location includes a plurality of first user-accessible storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations in response to a single command received from the host computer.

14. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the act (A) includes an act of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system having a predetermined state to be written to each of the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

15. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be non-contiguous storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to any of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

16. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first user-accessible storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be storage locations on different storage devices of the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

17. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of storage devices, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of

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first user-accessible storage locations are on different storage devices, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

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19. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the first user-accessible storage location corresponds to a logical object defined by the computer system, the logical object being formed by a first group of the plurality of user-accessible storage locations on the at least one storage device that includes the first user-accessible storage location, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to only the first group in response to a single command received from the host computer.

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21. (Amended) A method of operating a storage system in a computer system including the storage system and a host computer coupled thereto, wherein the storage system includes a cache memory and at least one storage device having a plurality of user-accessible storage locations, the method comprising, in response to a communication received from the host computer, acts of:

(A) generating, within the storage system, data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system to be written to a first storage location of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device; and
(B) writing the generated data to the first storage location;

wherein the storage system is a disc drive storage system, and the at least one storage device includes a plurality of disc drives.

22. (Twice Amended) A storage system for use in a computer system including a host computer, the storage system comprising:

at least one storage device including at least one disk drive having a plurality of user-accessible storage locations;

a cache memory; and

a controller, coupled to the cache memory and the at least one storage device that controls access to the at least one storage device from the host computer, the controller being capable of